

**PILOT PROGRAM UNDER THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL
PROGRAM FOR FUNDING PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
PROVIDED BY CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH EARLY
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAMS**

CHAPTER 694

H.B. No. 731

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program under the foundation school program for funding prekindergarten programs provided by certain school districts with early high school graduation programs.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 42.2527 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.2527. ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN DISTRICTS WITH EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAMS. (a) As a pilot program to enable the state to evaluate the benefit of providing additional funding at the prekindergarten level for low-income students, the commissioner shall provide prekindergarten funding in accordance with this section to a school district located in a county that borders the United Mexican States and the Gulf of Mexico.

(b) The commissioner shall provide funding for a school district's prekindergarten program on a half-day basis for a number of low-income prekindergarten students equal to twice the number of students who received, as a result of participation in an early high school graduation program operated by the district, a high school diploma from the district during the preceding school year after three years of secondary school attendance.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

(d) This section expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 15, 2015: Yeas 119, Nays 20, 2 present, not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 24, 2015: Yeas 23, Nays 7.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**FUNDING FOR THE TEXAS ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP IN
THE HUMANITIES**

CHAPTER 695

H.B. No. 771

AN ACT

relating to funding for the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 96.707(k), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(k) For each student enrolled in the academy, the academy is entitled to allotments from the Foundation School Program under Chapter 42 as if the academy were a school district without a tier one local share for purposes of Section 42.253[, except that the academy has a local share applied that is equivalent to the local fund assignment of the Beaumont Independent School District].

SECTION 2. Section 96.707(k), Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies beginning with the 2015–2016 academic year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2015: Yeas 125, Nays 12, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS
OF SOUND MITIGATION MEASURES ON CERTAIN
HIGHWAYS**

CHAPTER 696

H.B. No. 790

AN ACT

relating to a study on the implementation and effectiveness of sound mitigation measures on certain highways.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. (a) The Texas A&M Transportation Institute shall conduct a study assessing the implementation and effectiveness of sound mitigation measures on highways that are part of the state highway system and toll roads or turnpikes under the jurisdiction of a toll project entity as defined by Section 372.001, Transportation Code. The study must include:

- (1) an analysis of the process and methodology used by the Texas Department of Transportation or toll project entity for selecting and implementing sound mitigation measures, including factors that affect the process and how outcomes are determined;
- (2) an analysis of whether any kind of live testing is conducted at any point to determine the actual traffic noise level for neighboring properties;
- (3) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the process and methodology described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection in reducing the traffic noise level for neighboring properties; and
- (4) an evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented sound mitigation measures in reducing the traffic noise level for neighboring properties.

(b) Not later than November 1, 2016, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute shall submit a report on the results of the study and any recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each standing committee of the legislature with jurisdiction over transportation matters.

(c) This Act expires August 31, 2017.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 15, 2015: Yeas 133, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective June 17, 2015.